



# Santa Clara Fire Department

## FIRE PREVENTION AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

1675 Lincoln Street, Santa Clara, CA 95050  
PHONE: (408) 615-4970



## Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows Access

### PURPOSE:

This standard was established in order to ensure code compliant access to emergency escape and rescue windows where fire truck access is not feasible, due to topographical conditions.

### DEFINITIONS:

**All-Weather Pathway/Surface:** Concrete, asphalt, pavers, or other approved engineered surface. Pathway shall be engineered to support a minimum 1,000 pound load.

**Emergency Escape and Rescue Window:** An operable window, or other similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency.

**Ladder Pad:** A level, slip-resistant, all-weather surface, capable of supporting the weight of the ladder, firefighter(s) in gear, equipment, and person(s) to be rescued. Ladder pads shall be engineered to support a minimum 1000 pound load.

### REQUIREMENTS:

#### Building Perimeter

Ground ladder access shall comply with all of the following:

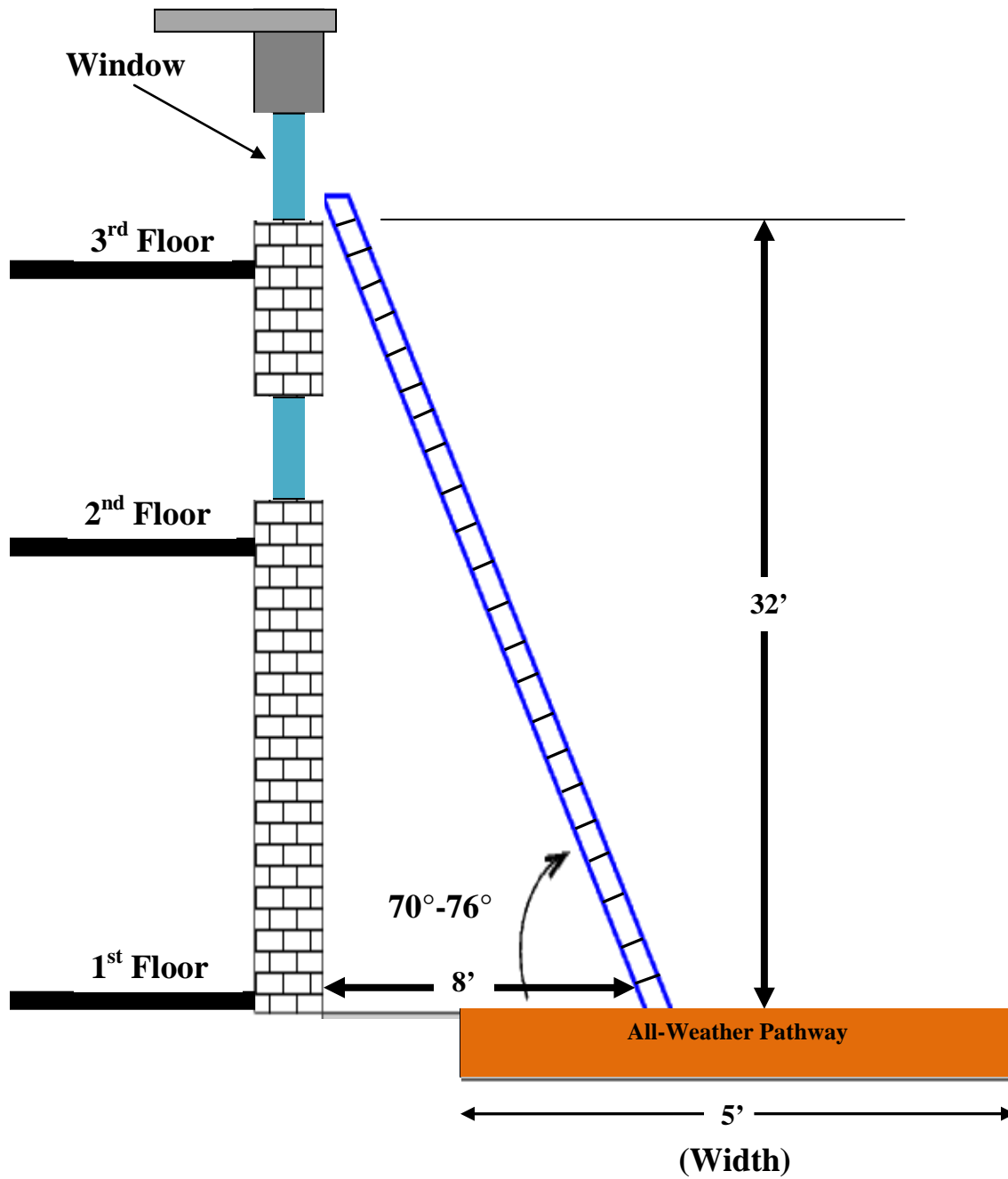
1. All-weather pathway shall be provided around the entire perimeter of the building;
2. Pathway width shall be a minimum of 60-inches;
3. Pathway shall be designed and installed so that the extended ladder angle of inclination is at least 70° and no great than 76° from horizontal. An easy way to determine the proper distance is to divide the required length of ladder by four. For example, if 32 feet of ladder is needed to reach a window on the third floor, the butt of the ladder should be placed a minimum of 8 feet from the building (**see Figure 1**).
4. Ladder set-up shall not be obstructed by architectural features, trees, or landscaping.

#### Interior Courts

When an all-weather pathway is not a desirable option ladder pads complying with all of the following requirements can be utilized:

1. A straight pathway from the public-way through the building to the interior court(s) shall be provided (code compliant stair are acceptable);
2. Pathway width through the building shall be a minimum of 72" in width;
3. Ladder pads shall not less than 6'-0" wide by 5'-0" deep and shall allow the unobstructed raising of the ladder free of overhead obstacles;
4. Ladder pads pathway shall be designed and installed so that the extended ladder angle of inclination is at least 70° and no great than 76° from horizontal. An easy way to determine the proper distance is to divide the required length of ladder by four. For example, if 32 feet of ladder is needed to reach a window on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the butt of the ladder should be placed a minimum of 8 feet from the building (**see Figure 2**).
5. Ladder Pads shall be permanently marked "**Fire Dept. Ladder Pad**".
6. Ladder set-up shall not be obstructed by architectural features, trees, or landscaping.

**Figure #1: Ground Ladder on Pathway**



**Figure #2: Ground Ladder on Fire Dept. Ladder Pad**

